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S E C R E T

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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Five reports on Soviet naval vessels observed in the port of Ventspils

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23 MAY 1957

R.L.

S E C R E T

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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1. The Shore Line LIBAU-VENTSPILS

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[redacted] saw [redacted] the radar station with the two scanners which is placed by the entrance.

2. Observation of Naval Vessels in Ventspils

1) [redacted] saw [redacted] submarine [redacted] was lying alongside the mother ship [redacted] by the city quay.

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Further USSR

2) Further up the river [redacted] saw some small minesweepers, probably 2 x 3, moored, also by the city quay.

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[redacted] this type minesweepers as those in Swinemünde. A quite small type, which sort of lies on its nose,

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[redacted] Page 2 [redacted]

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3. Harbor Facilities

On the export quay [redacted] there were 2, possibly 3, rows of railroad tracks with the tracks raised over the ground. There were 6 cranes on the quay [redacted]. The cranes were diesel electric. The cranes were placed on a quite high bridge which was able to drive on tracks on the quay while the cranes themselves only could swing. The cranes themselves consisted of a box-shaped maneuver house with radius which could be regulated. On the shore-side of the crane, also on the crane bridge, was the engine house with the relatively noiseless diesel engine.

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4.

[redacted] The workers sang and joked with each other while they worked. As a whole, they were relatively well-dressed although their clothes were somewhat dirty. [redacted]

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[redacted] 25X1

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1. [REDACTED] inward bound Russian [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] flaring stem with short forecastle, merchant stern, 1 gun in closed shield on the fore deck, and a similar one on the front of the bridge house. Anti-aircraft machine guns on the deck-house astern. The foremost mast a three-legged mast placed abaft the bridge on casing. The aftermost mast a pole mast. The ship is 300 feet long. Radar dome on top of the bridge and ordinary radar screen arched on the foremost mast top, and "rod antenna" [REDACTED] on the yard arm, probably starboard. 1 stack cut at a slant. [REDACTED] 25X1

2. Submarin [REDACTED] approximately 100 feet long, no armament, direction finder antenna on front of the bridge. The submarine was lying alongside an old torpedo boat [REDACTED] with 2 stacks, the foremost higher than the aftermost. [REDACTED] 25X1

3. 3 vessels, [REDACTED] flush deck, merchant cruiser stern, large star in the stem, 1 pole mast abaft the bridge, 1 stack, tall, cut at a slant; 1 gun in closed shield on the fore deck, 1 smaller gun without shield on the front of the bridge house, Radar dome on top of the mast. Two covered objects, probably windlass, on the quarter-deck. There were 3 colored circles on the stack, topmost a narrow yellow, then a wide blue, and then another narrow yellow. 25X1

4. 3 vessels [REDACTED] The ships were of the same class as [REDACTED] None of these ships had colored circles on the stack. 25X1

5. 6 older vessels, [REDACTED] minesweepers. 25X1

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6. 1 MTB [redacted] was lying alongside an older ship, [redacted] a depot ship. The MTB had a radar dome.

[redacted] COMMENTS

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Re 1. This is probably a destroyer of the RIGA-class.

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Re 3,4. KRONSTADT A/S.

Re 5. Minesweepers [redacted]

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two naval vessels were observed on northwards course, about 15 nautical miles west of Vent-
spils. Foremost stood a destroyer and about 1/4 nautical mile after the destroyer a large unarmed ship (see sketch 1). 25X1

2. Only small units were observed in the harbor on the same day. 25X1
10 vessels as shown on sketch 2.

3. Four submarines (sketch 3)

4. Five MTB's (sketch 4)

5. A tender (sketch 5),

6. A naval vessel (sketch 6),

COMMENTS

Re 1. The large naval vessel is probably the artillery target ship TZEL. 25X1

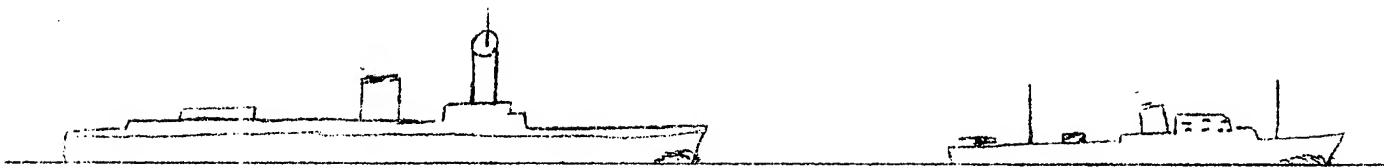
Re 3. [redacted] identified as submarine of the W-class.
Re 5. [redacted] Tehder, perhaps artillerist class.
Re 6. [redacted] identified as T 43 class minesweeper. 25X1

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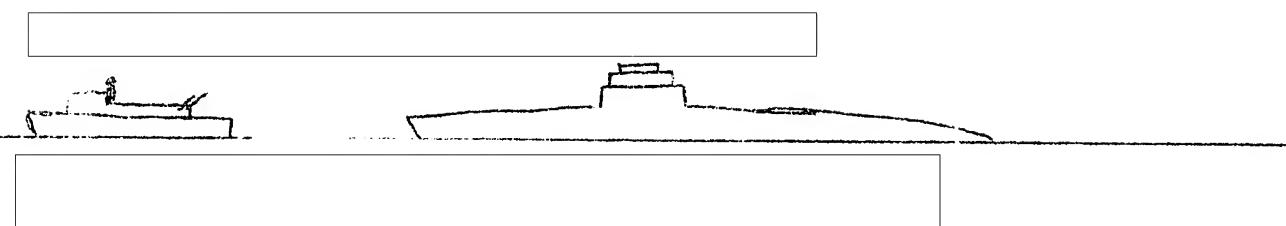
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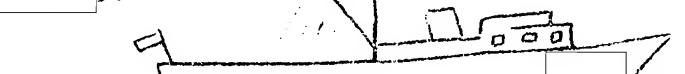
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5.

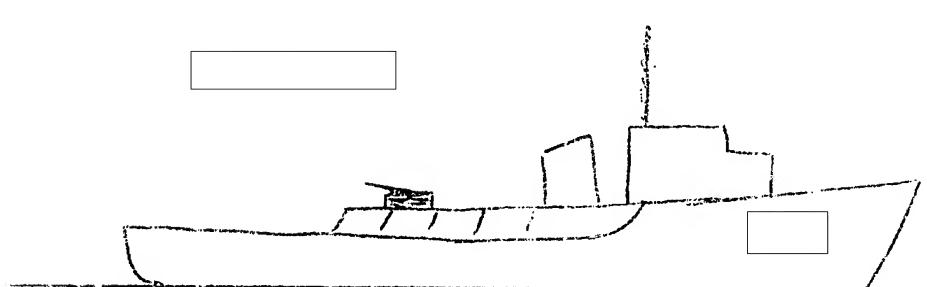
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1. [redacted] the following naval vessels were observed alongside the southern quay in Ventspils: 25X1

a. 2 submarines [redacted] both moored alongside a tender [redacted] (seemed to be an old destroyer with 2 stacks). Both submarines left the harbor [redacted] 25X1 25X1

b. 1 MTB, [redacted] was moored alongside another tender [redacted] [redacted] were ashore. [redacted] These had no torpedo tubes, but were equipped with quite a bit of ordnance which the informant is not able to describe. 25X1

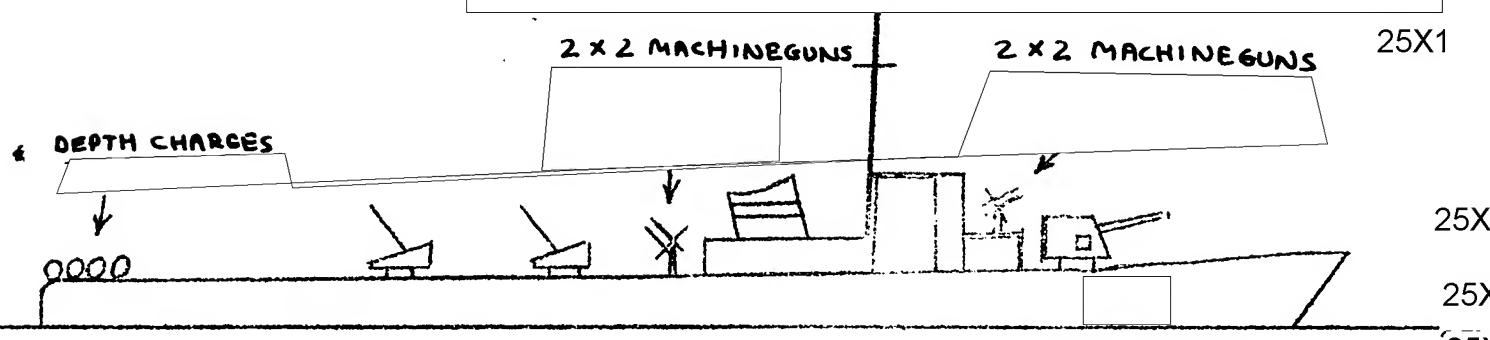
c. Also 10 submarine chasers, [redacted] [redacted] were seen. (See sketch.) [redacted]

d. [redacted] observed a number of minesweepers [redacted], described as follows: 1 stack, length about 20-30 metres, raised forecastle. 25X1

2. They trained in the working of the guns in the above-mentioned submarine chasers every evening at 2000 hours Russian time [redacted] The training started with the crews being lined up ashore where they apparently reviewed the evening's program. Then they mustered on the individual ships' quarter-deck, and when a signal was given, the guns and the AA guns were uncovered. The training lasted about half an hour, and then everything was covered again. These activities only took place aboard the submarine chasers. 25X1

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1. At 0830 (GMT) on position 57°06' north and 20°29' east a submarine was observed at a big distance. 25X1
[redacted]
25X1

2. 1) The following were observed in Ventspils [redacted] 25X1
1 small submarine and quite a few small vessels. No detailed description.

2) 5 small old torpedo boats - were [redacted] far away [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]

3) 3 newer vessels. 1 stack, 1 mast, sheer, but without forecastle; [redacted] Length approximately 50 metres, 1 gun in shield on the fore deck and 2 anti-aircraft guns on the quarter-deck. Radar screen on top of the mast. No torpedo apparatuses. 25X1
[redacted]

4) 1 old vessel, 1 stack, 1 mast, [redacted] about 40 metres long, forecastle to midship, no sheer, 1 gun on the fore deck, no radar, no torpedo apparatuses. 25X1
[redacted]

5) 1 old vessel, 1 stack with white-blue-white circle, 1 mast, [redacted] about 50 metres long, forecastle to midship, no armament, no radar, no torpedo apparatuses. 25X1
[redacted]

6) 1 old vessel, 1 stack, 1 mast, [redacted] about 30 metres long, forecastle to midship, no guns, no radar, no torpedo apparatuses. 25X1
[redacted]

7) 1 old vessel, 2 stacks, 1 mast, [redacted] about 70 metres long, forecastle to midship, no armament, no radar, no torpedo apparatuses. 25X1
[redacted]

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25X1

Page 2

[redacted]

[redacted]

8) 1 old transport ship, steam, 1 stack, 2 masts, long forecastle; the forecastle and gunwale were painted light gray and the rest of the ship dark gray.

9) 1 submarine, very slender in the hull, looked new, but the conning-tower was not streamlined, however, with 2 steps abaft, [redacted] approximately 50 metres long, no armament.

3. The inspection went without difficulties of any kind both on arrival and on departure.

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[redacted] COMMENTS

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Re 2.3) Probably KRONSTADT A/S vessels.

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